

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Roorda et al., U.S. Patent publication number 2002/0186432 ("Roorda"). Applicants respectively disagree and traverse these rejections for at the least the following reasons.

Each of the claims of the present invention requires a network element that is coupled to a plurality of optical transmission paths via respective interfaces, where each interface includes, among other things, an add/drop routing element for selectively dropping optical channels from a WDM signal and selectively adding optical channels and a plurality of intra-node outputs for selectively routing optical channels to any other interface for transmission in any of a plurality of optical transmission paths.

In contrast, Roorda does not disclose an interface that has a selective routing capability. Instead, Roorda discloses an ingress node (FIG. 4) having an interface 18 that routes optical channels (e.g. N, W, E, S) to a cross-connect 30 which then routes one of the channels on to another interface 19.

It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill of art, in reviewing FIG. 4, might conclude that the interface 18 includes an add/drop capability but would not conclude that the interface includes the selective routing capability of the cross-connect, as is required by claims 1-7.

Because Roorda does not disclose each and every element of the claimed inventions Roorda cannot anticipate claims 1-7.

Applicants respectively request withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of claims 1-7.

For the Examiner's additional reference, the specification of the present application discusses the use of cross-connects, such as cross-connect 30. As far as Applicants can tell, it appears that Roorda is similar to the prior art shown in FIG.1 of the present application.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

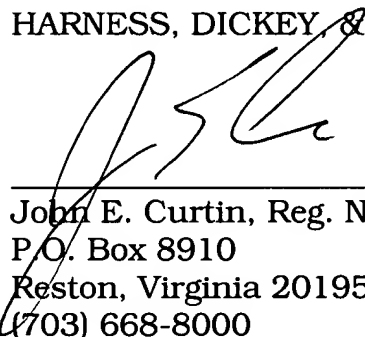
In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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